

There are pros and cons with that. We all know that. There are good employees and bad employees that are with the unions. It is a little more difficult to work with. But the issue is not creating a new government bureaucracy, the issue is protecting my children, my family, my loved ones, and your business associates and loved ones, when they travel.

I believe we need to do what is best for airport security and not what is best for a particular political party. I support the President's plan. The President's plan calls for strict Federal Government oversight on hiring and background checks, but it does not just stop at the gate; it says who is going to work on the plane. What about the maintenance people who clean the plane? What about the people who have access to the parts of the airplane in the airport itself? It is a much broader approach to airport security.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is about security, not about new government bureaucracies. I support the President's position. I hope that the Democrats will come on board and do so as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report accompanying H.R. 2590, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2590, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, October 30, 2001, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 26, 2001, at page H7337.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK).

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2002 conference agree-

ment for the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government. This conference agreement provides \$17.1 billion in funding for programs under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations.

That represents, Mr. Speaker, an increase of 6 percent above the fiscal year 2001 enacted levels and 2 percent above the President's request. It is especially important to have this funding in place because of the increased demands of national security and homeland security from the events of September 11.

One of the little known facts about this particular bill is that it supports over 40 percent of all Federal law enforcement through the Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Secret Service, the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

I want to highlight that, Mr. Speaker, because of the current role these agencies are playing in ensuring homeland security, and also because, whether we are at war or peace, it is important to understand the tools that our Nation possesses to defeat our enemies, to ensure an environment that encourages trade and commercial growth, and the normal, everyday activity in conducting the business of America, and to provide for the safety and stability in the daily routines of all Americans.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the new Office of Homeland Security, headed by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, is within the Executive Office of the President, another portion under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee and its funding.

Historically, law enforcement officials in the U.S. Department of Treasury have fulfilled their role quietly, without fanfare, without drawing the attention of the American people. Yet, the oldest law enforcement agency in the United States Government is the Customs Service of Treasury. It was established in 1789, one of the very first acts enacted by the First Congress of the United States after adoption of the Constitution.

The evolving threats to our country are making special demands upon this, America's first law enforcement agency, the one that defends our borders, as well as the other law enforcement functions that come under the Treasury Department and within this bill.

We need to focus the support and attention of Congress and the Administration and of the American people to determine appropriate, coordinated strategies and provide the funding levels for Treasury law enforcement bureaus to enable them to fully carry out their missions.

Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement before us recognizes that there are additional resources that are going to be necessary because of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This bill begins to address those requirements.

We will have within a few day's time a supplemental appropriations that will deal with further law enforcement needs and other Federal law enforcement agencies, as well as other aspects of our military and the national government.

There is within this bill some \$5.7 billion for law enforcement efforts under our jurisdiction. It is an increase of almost 12 percent, \$593 million above the current year. That is even before we factor in the necessary increases that will be part of the upcoming supplemental.

Specifically, in terms of supporting Federal law enforcement, this conference report provides an increase of \$402 million for the Customs Service, of which some \$33 million is devoted to border inspection technology; \$28 million for additional inspectors and agents along the northern border, which has not received the increase in recent years that the southern border has; and \$170 million is added for customs automation modernization, which includes an amount not less than \$300 million, for the automated commercial environment. This system will tie together some 50-odd Federal agencies that have jurisdiction over products that are coming into the United States, part of the cargo which must be inspected by the Customs Service. Because of the manpower shortages, Mr. Speaker, customs is able to inspect only 1 or 2 percent of the entering cargo, a ratio which we intend to increase.

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We also expand the funding for Customs for its efforts to halt trade and goods that are produced by forced child labor; also providing funding for the protection of intellectual property. Some of the smuggling that happens across our borders is not just illegal drugs. It is not just contraband shipments of alcohol or tobacco. It is not only knock-offs of American products which people are trying to pass off cheaply-produced goods overseas that have the appearance but not the quality and certainly not the original manufacture of American goods. We are also protecting intellectual property because smuggling, whether it be DVD software, compact disk recordings, whatever it may be, there is a severe organized criminal assault against the intellectual property that is produced by American artists, scientists, engineers, computer programmers and others, which is part of the great commerce and the great advantage that this Nation enjoys technologically. That intellectual property is protected by Customs just as it protects us from other illicit cargo.

We also have an increase of \$45 million for Secret Service recruitment and retention. These are men and women who protect not only the President but protect our currency against counterfeiting who are in charge of the special security arrangements at the upcoming